

SIX-PAGE EDITION

HONOLULU,.....DEC. 25, 1885

TO MARK TWAIN.

(ON HIS FIFTIETH BIRTHDAY.)

Ah Clemens, when I saw thee last,—
We both of us were younger,—
How fondly mumbled o'er the past
In Memory's toothless hunger!

So fifty years have fled, they say,
Since first you took to drinking,—
I mean in Nature's milky way,
Of course no ill I'm thinking.

But while on life's uneven road
Your track you've been pursuing,
What fountains from your wit have flowed—
What drinks you have been brewing!

I know whence all your magic came,—
Your secret I've discovered,—
The source that fed your inward flame—
The dreams that round you hovered:

Before you learned to bite or munch
Still kicking in your cradle,
The Muse mixed a bowl of punch
And Hebe seized the ladle.

Dear babe, whose fiftieth year to-day
Your ripe half-century betrays,
Your book the precious draught betray
The laughing Nine compounded.

So mixed the sweet, the sharp, the strong,
Each finds its fit amusements,
The virtues that to each belong
In happier union blended.

And what the flavor can surpass
Of sugar, spirit, lemon?—
So while one health fills every glass
Mark Twain for Baby Clemens!

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.
Boston, November 23, 1885.

VILLAGE YOUTH.

Some of the Influence by Which They are Surrounded.

How beautiful becomes the life of the youth surrounded by simple village influences, when it is compared with the wild, reckless career of the young man of the city.

Growing to manhood with a mind unpolished by the sins of the great outside world, the village youth passes his time in instructive conversation at the "combination store," filling his mind with useful knowledge, which would be invaluable to him should he ever be compelled to work.

In this persistently devoting himself to conversation, he gradually becomes an authority on mowing machines, road taxes, the price of butter, and other national questions of the hour.

By the time he reaches his majority the village youth is sure to be one of the best all-round theoretical farmers in his neighborhood.

He can give the oldest inhabitant in the county points, and finally makes up his mind to become a consulting agriculturist, establishing his headquarters at the "combination store."

But it is not all work and study with the village youth. He has his regular office hours, and also his hour for innocent amusement.

After the farmers have disposed of their butter, eggs and other cash-producers, they casually inform their wives and daughters that they have an engagement "up at the Court-house," slip around the corner, and join the learned village youth in the cellar of the "combination store." There the merry apple-jack goes round, at the farmer's expense, and the conversation turns into such instructive channels as the proper pronunciation of the word "sheol," the jurisdiction of the deity and the relative positions of parents and their children, interspersed with running comments on the general morality of the entire township.

At these little symposia the village youth is seen at his best for fully an hour, and at the end of that time he becomes an attentive listener, taking an easy position upon the cellar floor, and shutting his eyes in order to fully concentrate his mind upon the weighty arguments going on between the farmers.

When the entire party has become exhausted through sheer mental exertion, a motion to adjourn is declared in order. The motion is usually put and carried by the farmers' wives, and as the worthy dames deposit their argumentative larders carefully among the empty egg baskets and butter tubs in the wagon, they call down untold blessings upon the head of the village youth.

The latter in the meantime remains in his listening posture in the cellar, tenderly grasping in one hand a half-empty bottle of apple-jack and clutching with the other a nickel kindly lent to him by one of his late companions.

Compare the edifying picture presented by this product of innocent village life with the depraved, hard-working, self-respecting average youth of the city, and pray for the latter's salvation.—*Puck.*

ASTROLOGY.

Studying the Stars for the Benefit of Religion.

On the revival of learning in the fourteenth century astrology was turned to a curious purpose—viz, that of forming a science or philosophy of religion. This feat was attempted by Peter de Ardeno, or Albano, a learned physician of Padua, at the beginning of the fourteenth century. He cast the horoscopes of various religions, Christianity included, in order to discover the course of their future development and the length of time they would endure. This learned gentleman got into trouble with the Inquisition, but as he died at the age of 80, before sentence was passed, that tribunal had to be satisfied with burning him in effigy. Jerome Cardan, the celebrated astro-

braist, and Jean Bodin, a celebrated French political author, attempted a philosophy of history on a like method. The use of astrology in this fashion has been praised by a nineteenth century philosopher, Auguste Comte who goes even so far as to say that the rejection of astrology was premature, and has tended to retard the progress of the science of history. From the fourteenth century down to the end of the seventeenth century great attention was paid to astrology, and the science was cultivated and patronized by both nobles and philosophers. The last astrologer who had public attention paid to him in England, was William Lilly, in the time of the civil war between the King and Parliament. Both sides seem to have consulted him, and he wrote several books on the sciences and an amusing autobiography. Lilly was examined by the Privy Council in regard to the causes of the great fire in London. He said also to have been the model for the Sidrophel of Butler's "Hudibras." Since the beginning of the eighteenth century astrology has fallen into disrepute, but has had a succession of votaries to our own day. Among what our old writers used to call "the vulgar," it is questionable whether there is a town of any size in Lancashire or Yorkshire without its professional astrologer, and the advertisements of professors of the science turn up in all sorts of odd corners in the by-ways of literature. So an extensive public must ever exist which has not got rid of all faith in the monitions of the stars.—*All the Year Round.*

Revival of Chinese Piracy.

The City of Peking from China brings news of the capture of a British steamer by Chinese pirates, who took passage from Hongkong, attacked the officers when about seventy miles out, killed the Captain, wounded several others, ransacked the ship, compelled the engineer to run her half-way back to Hongkong and, after disabling the engines, left on some junk which came alongside apparently by previous arrangements.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago an exploit of this kind would have been less unexpected, in fact, because being expected it would have been guarded against. Piracy was then common enough on the coast of China and vessels trading in those seas took reasonable precautions. There were usually a rack of muskets and cutlasses in the main cabin and a few cannonades on deck to provide against possible contingencies. The piratical junks, stealing out from convenient harbors or cruising up and down the coast, were rather wary of attacking the large American and European ships, knowing that a warm reception awaited them, and usually confined their depredations to the coasting vessels of their own countrymen. They had no rigid political principles, but considered a Chinaman as legitimate game as a white man, and much more easily handled. Frequently, however, as opportunity offered, or some bolder free-booter made a dash at fortune, foreign ships were attacked and sometimes captured. Old "China rangers" could tell many exciting stories of adventure in those days. The case is still remembered of a British brig which sailed out of Hongkong just before sunset one evening. The next morning she was found floating about the bay, pillaged, and her crew lying on deck with their throats cut. She had been boarded almost within cannon-shot of half a dozen foreign men-of-war lying in the harbor. The numerous small British gunboats which hovered along the coast, and were continually dropping in at every port, made it very warm for these gentry, and were instrumental in bringing about the comparative freedom from their depredations now enjoyed. The pirates, however, were for years active and elusive.

Piracy was by no means confined to salt water. Along the great rivers the pirates in small craft lay in wait for the silk boats and other traders, and resolute white men were waiting for something to turn up at the treaty ports on the up-river traders as guards, half a dozen of them having nothing to do but to live on the fat of the land and stand by to repel boarders, a Chinese crew doing all the work of the craft.—*S. F. Bulletin, Nov. 30th.*

Texas Cattle Kings.

The public does not realize the enormous extent of the vast profits of the Western cattle-raising business as now conducted in Texas, New Mexico and the plains as far north even as Wyoming and Montana. The little book "Cattle-raising on the Plains," by Walter Baron von Richthofen, gives much valuable information on this subject. The author has been in the business and lived among the stockmen of Colorado and other quarters. The quick and large profits in the business, as it can be conducted by great syndicates of companies more especially, are tempting great numbers of foreigners, titled and otherwise, to embark in it and to keep extending not only their herds but their landed acquisitions, by purchase, or, apparently, by any other practical means. The Prairie Cattle Company controls a domain considerably larger than the State of Connecticut. It is partitioned off into three divisions, each having its system of Government. Its herd of 30,000 or 40,000 cattle, its army of rancheros or cowboys and its hundreds of horses, all busy, and all especially in use in the annual roundups, or gatherings of the cattle for counting and for branding the calves. This New Mexico and Texas company alone has 140,000 head of cattle and a property, all told, that is rated at between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000. Individual cattle kings are mentioned who own 40,000 head of cattle and 700,000 acres or more each, requiring 350 miles of fencing. Scotch companies, English companies, French companies, titled foreigners and untitled, as well as great numbers of Americans, are engaged in this profitable business.

The Prairie Cattle Company began only three years ago, yet they now have 140,000 head of cattle, after having sold enough to pay all expenses to date and leave a clear profit of about \$300,000. Other syndicates are doing a similar large and profitable business. They find it profitable to grade up their stock. The improvement of the old Spanish-Texas stock by crossing it with a strain of Hereford or Shorthorn or other blooded stock pays very well in the larger animal and in the increased market price of the beef. Many of these great "cattle kings" have already become millionaires and many more are fast becoming such.—*Hartford Post.*

THINGS ARE NOT WHAT THEY SEEM.

A Sergeant, His Wife and Two Daughters.

An exchange tells this story of a French sergeant to whom was entrusted the oversight of twenty-four soldiers, who, doubtless, had a chance to find out for himself the truth of Longfellow's statement that "things are not what they seem."

In the building which the soldiers were to occupy were nine rooms, so he arranged his men in the following manner, taking care to keep the center room to himself, so that he could thus manage a sort of a warlike "puss in the corner."

By this disposition of the men the brave sergeant had nine stationed on each face of the building, and so flattered himself that it was well guarded. And yet there were signs of danger, they knocked at the door of the center room and asked permission to alter the arrangement, so that they might have a little amusement. The sergeant gave consent on condition that there should be always nine men on each side of the house, and then retired to rest. About an hour afterward he went his rounds and found the men arranged thus:

3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
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He counted and there were four men on each side, so he went peacefully to bed again quite satisfied with the conduct of his men, and imagining that four soldiers had gone for a walk in the town, as 4 1 4.

You may see if you count the number in the plan adjoining. Not long afterward the sergeant returned, bringing with them four friends. There were not twenty-eight men in the building. For the second time the sergeant went his rounds and found the rooms occupied as follows:

2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

"Nine on each side," he thought, "certainly I am a lucky fellow to have such a trustworthy set of men under me."

And yet there were four more soldiers than there were at first, and eight more than when he last went round.

Truly, things are not what they seem. Soon after the sergeant had retired four more fresh soldiers came in, so the number of one detachment was increased to thirty-two. Once more the vigilant sergeant went round. Once more he found nine on each side, and went to his room without suspecting mischief.

Why should he be doubtful, when there were always nine on each side?

By and by four more men came in, and the number in the building was raised to thirty-six. The men were at first afraid they would be found out, but a little while they managed to arrange themselves so that the magic number should still be found on each side; neither more nor less.

And so for the fourth time the sergeant counted, and was satisfied.

Made bold by their success in puzzling their leader, the men agreed that half should leave the building, only eighteen remaining behind. While they were gone the sergeant came round for the last time, and found the arrangement as follows:

0	9	0	9	0	9	0	9	0	9
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What more can a man wish? There were nine each side; and yet there were six men less than at first, and eighteen less than when he last went round.

It is easy to explain how the sergeant was deceived. The corner 4 0 5 rooms are counted on two sides of the house at once. The more there are in these rooms, the fewer there are in the whole building; and the fewer there are in the corner rooms, the more there are in the house.

"Jim Webster, did you hear Parson bleed?" says in his sermon last Sunday was de chicken thieves was gwine to spend dar vacation after dey had shuck demsels ob dis fleshy tabernacle?" asked Uncle Mose.

"I did hear dat at sermon and I was mightily impressed wid it."

"Yer don't realized de troof ob it, Jim."

"Yes, I does realize it, Uncle Mose. I realize it so much dat I has made up my mind to quit stealing chickens. From now on I let de chickens rest in peace and turn all my tentions to turkeys and ducks."—*Texas Sifting.*

The reporter who is very ignorant always begins his articles, "We are well informed."

When the reporter relies on a mere rumor he writes, "We learn from a perfectly reliable source."

When he is uncertain he writes, "As is well known."

If he has written all that can be written on a subject he adds, "We might continue this subject for columns."

If he does not hear anything at all he writes, "It has come to our ears."

If he does not know how an affair started he writes, "As all our readers are well aware."

If nobody has said a word to him on a subject he writes, "We have just been assured."—*Washington Coll.*

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13th " 1,600.00
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Kailua, Maui, about 12.20 m.
Kailua, Maui, about 12.20 m.
Kailua, Maui, about 12.20 m.
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